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Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-11 INT-08 FEA-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01

/206 W

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R 281324Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7809
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T NAIROBI 5438

E.O.: 16652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KE, XF, IS
SUBJ: KENYA AND ISRAEL

REF: NAIROBI 5074 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WAVE OF PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISM OF ARAB OIL POLICY AND CONCOMITANT CALL FOR RESTORATION RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL (REFTEL) HAS LARGELY SUBSIDED. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GOK REVIEW ITS STANCE MIDDLE EAST ISSUES WAS NOT REPEAT NOT FORMALLY TAKEN UP AT JUNE 20 CABINET MEETING SUGGESTING NO EARLY MOVEMENT TOWARD RESTORATION. NEVERTHELESS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS WHICH

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PROMPTED SHARP REACTION REMAIN PRESENT AND, ESPECIALLY AS 1974 IS

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ELECTION YEAR, CAN GENERATE FRESH ANTI-ARAB, PRMB-ISRAEL CAMPAIGN AT ANY TIME. END SUMMARY

1. INTENSIFYING, WEEK-LONG CHORUS OF PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISM OF ARAB OIL POLICY AND ATTENDANT CALLS FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC

TIES WITH ISRAEL FINALLY ABATED AFTER MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING KIBAKI DEFENDED GOK'S NOVEMBER, 1973 DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. KIBAKI SAID GOK DECISION MADE ON BASIS UN PRINCIPLES AND WAS NOT KENYAN ATTEMPT OBTAIN FAVORABLE PRICE FOR OIL CHARGED BY ARAB EXPORTERS.

2. IN RECENT DAYS LOCUS OF PUBLIC DEBATE HAS SHIFTED FROM ASSEMBLY TO PRESS. ON JUNE 26 EAST AFRICAN STANDARD FEATURED FRONT PAGE STORY BY ITS LONDON CORRESPONDENT ON RECOGNITION QUESTION. QUOTING " ISRAELI SOURCES" ARTICLE CLAIMED SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES (INCLUDING KENYA) "HAVE PUT OUT FEELERS" WITH VIEW RESUMPTION DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISREAL. (COMMENT: ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY "ISRAELI

SOURCES" CLOSELY PARALLELED PRESENTATION BY ISRAELI NAIROBI-BASED INTELLIGENCE OFFICER REPORTED IN NAIROBI 5075 (NOTAL). SAME PAPER IN JUNE 27 EDITORIAL NOTING "ISRAEL WAS NEVER AN ENEMY OF AFRICA" STATED RESUMPTION TIES BETWEEN SOME AFRICAN STATES AND ISRAEL "APPEARS LILELY". IN COURSE CONVERSATION OTHER MATTERS SENIOR FON MIN OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFFS GOK RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL "QUITE

POSSIBLE BY END OF YEAR".

3. COMMENT: WHILE MANY INFLUENTIAL KENYANS ARE IN BASIC SYMPATHY WITH ISRAEL (WHOSE MODEST BUT HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WAS MUCH APPRECIATED) AND RESENTFUL OF ARABS, RESTORATION OF RELATIONS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AT HAND. DESPITE RECENT BROUHAHA WE BLIEVE GOK UNWILLING STEP OUT IN FRONT WITHOUT COMPANY. AT SAME TIME BARRING OIL PRICE ROLL-BACK AND/OR MEANINGFUL ARAB ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ANTI-ARAB CLAMOR COULD RESUME AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OIL PRICES INTENSIFIES. MARSHALL

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